

LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"*NEC TENUI PENNA.*"

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CONFIDENTIAL.

The field of medical journalism in this country is well filled. Dr. S. D. Gross, in his splendid contribution to the history of medical literature during the past century, says we have about a hundred periodicals of this sort in the Union. There are half-yearlies, quarterlies, bi-monthlies, monthlies, bi-weeklies, and weeklies. We doubt not the next centennial historian will record a daily in the profession. And yet we can not say there is any crowding in this respect. The fifty thousand physicians in the United States ought to support the deserving ones handsomely. Certainly no doctor should be without one or two journals at least, and few would be exceeding their duty if they took many more.

All these classes of journals have their special fields, and, so far from competing with each other, are of mutual benefit. The retrospects and abstracts gather up the points which deserve to live longer and are most convenient for reference. Our grandfathers would perhaps esteem the quarterlies most, and would hold that learning but lightly which could be manufactured with every phase of the moon. Their advancing offspring read these too, or at least take them, as it would not be respectable if they did not appear on their shelves. They are consulted when one feels in a particularly learned or quiet mood. The stars and daggers which crowd their pages show with what care authorities have been searched. To be admitted to such company is felt to be quite an honor, and an accepted article for such pages is apt to make one feel himself rather above other writers in less pretentious

fields. To use a Hibernicism, however, it would not do for the quarterly to come out oftener. Life would be made too serious. We will not examine the claims of monthlies, etc. We admit these fully, and it is useless to conceal the fact that we started out with cold intent to praise that field of journalism in which *we* do our work, and perhaps to say a good word or two for our especial selves, which, contrary to the proverb, does not in journalism seem to rank as half scandal.

Certainly the weekly journal, if it be a good one, is the most welcome. It establishes an intimacy by its frequent visits far easier than its slower contemporaries can do by their more stately calls. One feels a closer bond with the profession when he meets his far-away fellows every Saturday morning.

It is the journal too which is oftenest read. Its very size is in its favor. It can be taken up between times, at odd hours, examined on the drive, and its contents noted when opportunity may not offer to master heavier effusions.

But the weekly need not lack for learning. Some of the very best journals of this country come out so often, as the chaste and elegant Boston Journal, the vigorous Record of New York, the useful Reporter of Philadelphia, and our excellent contemporaries in Cincinnati and at home. The most celebrated journal of the world in fact, the London Lancet, appears in England as a weekly.

In one respect the weekly journal does more than any for accurate medicine: its communications are generally made up from the passing events in practice while they are

fresh in the writers' minds. Many "false facts" have crept into medicine by too much dependence being placed on the memory. It is certainly a field for useful medicine. Active practitioners, battling directly with disease, are often tempted to record in its pages the results of their every-day experience when lack of time or inclination forbid them to furnish elaborate essays. These are the men who make up practical medicine more than your learned pundits, skilled in authorities only.

We think we have proved our point, if any proof were needed, of the usefulness of weekly medical journalism. As we can not modestly discuss the matter so freely as to the special call of the present journal in this field, we hope at least it will, as time goes by, do this for itself. We would, however, like to add a word or so, which may not appear out of place in this period of its history, as to what this journal proposes to do, and what it wishes to be done for it. It wishes to make itself an organ of the profession and a want to the profession. It invites communications from all quarters upon subjects of professional interest. It begs such as have any difficulties in their practice to ask their solution in its pages, that others may see them and perhaps throw light upon them. A department of queries will be established for this purpose. It wishes the news. It throws its pages open to the discussion of mooted points. It invites this, no matter what variance from editorial views it may present.

Another matter and we are done. Articles from the very best writers in the profession, both at home and abroad, are promised for these pages. The publishers, of whom we may speak freely—the oldest and largest book-firm of the West—are putting out the journal equaled in appearance by few periodicals in the country; they are a guaranty for the stability of the work. The journal costs but a nominal price, is in the reach of the poorest, and we want subscribers. We appeal to our many personal friends in the profession, and to all who approve the work,

to send in their names and bring the journal to the notice of others in their neighborhood when opportunity allows, and help to make it what we will use our best endeavor to do, the most widely-circulating journal of its character in the West.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Senator Logan, the chairman of the military committee of the Senate, has reported a bill "to reduce the number and increase the efficiency of the medical corps." This bill provides that the number of assistant surgeons now allowed by law shall be reduced to one hundred and twenty-five, that the office of medical storekeeper be abolished, and that in addition to the grades now allowed by law there shall be four surgeons with the rank and pay of colonels and eight surgeons with the rank and pay of lieutenant-colonels. The act, however, will not be so construed as to deprive any medical officer or storekeeper of his commission in the army.

The profession of the country have been for the past few years interested in securing for the medical department of the army a just recognition of the services which they have rendered. The success which we announce is in great measure due to the efforts of the American Medical Association. We sincerely trust that Congress will act upon this matter without further delay.

Original.

THE NEW MODE OF PREVENTING THE FORMATION OF MILK.

A few months ago Dr. Peaslee announced, at a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, the proposed method of Dr. W. R. Wilson, U. S. A., of treating the breasts

in cases in which it is desirable to prevent lactation, said method consisting in strapping the breasts tightly by means of strips of adhesive plaster.

This method, judging at least from his remarks, was new to Dr. Peaslee, than whom no more accomplished physician exists. He was tempted to test this procedure in five cases of still-birth, and in all the results were perfect. In closing his remarks Dr. Peaslee said "*the method of using extract of belladonna had never been satisfactory, and the suggestions of Dr. Wilson are very important.*"

From this record it would seem that in Dr. Peaslee's opinion at least the suggestion originated with Dr. Wilson, but the announcement to the Academy of Medicine has called forth the statement from at least two physicians that for years they had resorted to the same or similar procedures. One, a veteran practitioner of *four years' standing*, who has used this plan *ever since he has been in practice*, sapiently remarks, "There is no sense or science in putting any thing on the skin of the breast with the expectation of effecting the secretion in the gland underneath, one way or the other." We are constrained to differ with this practitioner. In our hands "*ointments, liniments, salves, and washes of belladonna*," etc., when applied to the skin of the breast, have effected the secretion of the gland; but they are, one and all, far less satisfactory than the results which are to be obtained from the simple but effective method of strapping.

We do not propose in this paper to defend the claim of Dr. Wilson to priority, or to assert the advantages which are to be obtained from inunction or other applications to the skin, but to simply place upon record one more case of successful strapping of the breast, and to urge, so far as may be in our power, the advantages of the procedure.

During the month of December, 1875, a young lady was prematurely delivered of her first child in the city of Louisville. The case was in the hands of the senior Dr. Yandell,

during whose temporary absence from the city, two days after delivery, the case was placed in our care.

December 19th, at ten o'clock P. M., having been called to the case, we found the patient suffering severely with the constitutional disturbance incident to impending lactation; and although the breasts were greatly swollen and exceedingly painful, they were at once subjected to the strapping process.

With a strip of Mitchell's adhesive plaster the gland was firmly drawn up. A second strip was applied so as to fix the upper margin of the gland, and by succeeding strips alternately applied *below* and *above* the entire breast, with the exception of the nipple, was subjected to efficient support and pressure. The second breast was similarly treated. During this process and for some hours after its completion the milk flowed freely. The sensation of relief was immediate, and the result obtained was eminently satisfactory.

M'CLELLAN.

LOUISVILLE.

HEREDITARY INSANITY.

BY LUNSFORD P. YANDELL, M. D.

Nothing in medicine is more generally conceded than that insanity runs in families. For the most part one or the other parent betrays evidences of the disorder before it shows itself in the offspring; but in a case which has come under my observation the mental unsoundness appeared in the children many years before it was exhibited by the parent. The history of this case is as follows: Washington, an African in color, but with a large, well-shaped head, and much above the average of his race in intellect, had among his children two of unsound mind. The first who showed signs of mental disorder was a daughter. After an attack of acute rheumatism, when about ten years of age, it was remarked that her mind had become enfeebled, in which condition she has remained for forty years, with nothing

vicious in her disposition, and easily controlled, except in a propensity to wander away from home.

A son, some years later, after reaching manhood began to exhibit signs of mental obliquity. He was possessed by the idea that he had been "tricked" by some of his people, and that his body was filled with worms. For relief he resorted long to all the vulgar remedies recommended to him, among other means bleeding himself in the feet, in the hope of thus drawing off some of his tormentors. I lost sight of him fifteen years ago, when he was still industriously plying his vermifuges.

The father, as has been stated, is of superior mind for one of his race, and the worst that could be alleged against him is that he has been eccentric. Among other peculiarities, he has been averse to the society of his own people. In speaking of his social comforts he has been heard to congratulate himself that there were "not many negroes in the neighborhood to disturb him." He was taught to read when young, and most of his leisure time through life he has spent reading the Scriptures and hymn-books. His habits have been temperate and regular. Until he passed his eightieth year he was able to support himself by his labor on a farm; but about twelve months ago he broke down, and comfortable quarters were secured him in the city. Having no other occupation after he came to town, he spent nearly all his time singing hymns and reading the Bible. For a time he appeared cheerful, but about two months ago it was remarked by those around him that he had ceased reading and singing; and not long afterward he grew restless, wandering about at night, and began to betray marks of insanity. With this change in his behavior it was noticed that his hearing, which—as is usual in one so old—had grown dull, was much improved. He grew suspicious of the servants about him, and thought he heard them plotting against his life. In a storm of wind and rain, two weeks ago, he fled from his imaginary pursuers and spent the

night from home. Next morning he was returned in a carriage, much exhausted, with pain in his chest and cough followed in a few days by bloody expectoration. The hallucination was gone and he was in his right mind, though unable to tell where or how he had passed the night. He is slowly convalescing, but it is still too early to predict what will be the condition of his mind should he recover.

Many cases are related by writers on diseases of the mind in which mental obliquity in parents was succeeded by lunacy in the offspring; but this old patient of mine never betrayed a symptom to excite apprehensions of such a danger; and yet I think the defective organization must have come from him; for, besides the fact that he at last came to be insane, his children on the mother's side inherited no tendency to insanity. The family of the mother for at least two generations was free from the taint. Though eccentric, there was nothing in the conduct of the father through life to suggest a thought of lunacy, and his faulty organization was only exposed when age began to tell upon the structure of his brain.

LOUISVILLE.

STRANGULATED UMBILICAL HERNIA—REDUCTION BY ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

BY P. E. SANDIDGE, M. D.

H. T., a colored woman, aged twenty-three years, previously quite healthy, was attacked, at four o'clock P. M. on the 12th inst., with an acute pain to the left of the navel, which in spite of poultices and various fomentations became more and more severe, and speedily extended over the whole of the umbilical region. The bowels moved freely at 6 P. M., though soon afterward hiccough with stercoraceous vomiting set in. I saw the case at 9 A. M. on the 13th inst. The pulse was then 130, and very feeble; countenance expressive of great agony; skin cool, and muscles contracted and unsteady.

I found upon examination that the navel was protruded to the size of half a goose-egg, intensely painful to the touch, hard and unyielding. I diagnosed a case of strangulated umbilical hernia, and attempted its reduction by the taxis. From this, however, I was forced speedily to desist, from the intense pain it occasioned. Having no anæsthetic at hand, I was meditating what course to pursue, when the method pursued by Dr. Lipscomb, and published by him in the American Practitioner of October, 1875, occurred to me, and I determined to use atmospheric pressure. I obtained a bowl five inches in its largest diameter, and made several attempts to cause it to adhere over the umbilicus, using blazing paper as an exhaustor. I was unable to do so, however, as the surface around the tumor was rendered irregular, and was in constant motion by the muscular contraction and persistent hiccough and vomiting. I injected morphia and atropia just beneath the tumor, with the happy effect of speedily relaxing the muscles and rendering the surface smooth. I resorted to the taxis again, but again found it was impracticable on account of the pain it induced. The bowl was then applied once more, again using the blazing paper as an exhaustor. This time it took hold and adhered five minutes. Upon examination I found the tumor softer and less painful, but still would not bear sufficient handling. The bowl was re-applied, and remained eight minutes; was instantly put back, and adhered ten minutes. Upon examination I then found the tumor quite soft, and that it could be freely handled. Its reduction was then attempted pretty much in the same manner as in a case of paraphimosis; and in a short time it had all passed away save a hard cord-like ridge running from the navel to the point beneath the aponeurosis, where the pain had been first felt in the attack. I then grasped the navel and surrounding tissues between the thumb and fingers, and, pulling them to some distance, shook the walls of the abdomen. To my great satisfaction I soon heard a gurgling sound, and found that the tumor had entirely disap-

peared. A dose of castor-oil was administered, which operated in two hours, bringing away some fecal matter with blood and mucus; an opiate was then prescribed. To-day (January 16th) the patient is sitting up, complains of no pain, and has had normal stools.

I am quite certain that in this case I should have been at a loss how to proceed had I not read the report of Dr. Lipscomb's cases, though I admit that I do not fully comprehend the *modus operandi* of the treatment.

BURKSVILLE, KY.

A CASE OF STONE IN THE BLADDER IN A GIRL—DILATATION OF THE URETHRA EFFECTED BY THE FINGERS.

BY W. M. LAWRENCE, M.D.

Having seen in the Louisville Medical News of January 1st a report, by Professor D. W. Yandell, of nine cases of stone in the bladder, I wish to add another to the list, a case on which Drs. Dickson, Ewing, and myself operated on the 27th of December last.

The subject was a girl, between four and five years old. After being put under chloroform the fingers, beginning with the little finger, were used to dilate the urethra, and in less than thirty minutes as much dilatation as we desired was effected. The stone, weighing nearly five hundred grains, was now readily crushed and removed. The child was up in a few days.

BATESVILLE, ARK.

The above case, reported by my friend Dr. Lawrence, is interesting as showing by what simple and ready means the female urethra may be dilated. It has happened to me to meet but two instances of vesical calculus in females. As they have never been recorded, a very brief account of them may not be out of place in this connection.

CASE I.—A girl, aged eleven, living near Hopkinsville, Ky., had suffered with vesical distress for several years. Having detected

a calculus, the patient was chloroformed by my friend Dr. Vaughan, of this city, when I divided the urethra with a double lithotome, the blades being reversed, and succeeded in first crushing and then removing a phosphatic calculus, the fragments of which filled an ordinary tea-cup, and weighed two ounces. In two days after the patient, against orders, mounted a horse and rode several miles without inconvenience. She recovered perfectly.

CASE II.—A girl living in this city, aged four years, had been treated by several medical men for *prolapsus ani*. She was brought to me for advice for the same trouble. Being struck by the strong urinous smell about the child, I introduced an ordinary grooved director into the bladder, and found a small calculus. With the assistance of my friend Dr. Preston B. Scott, who gave chloroform, I divided the urethra on the director a short distance behind the meatus, and extracted with ordinary dressing-forceps a uric-acid calculus about the size of a filbert. The child quickly recovered from all vesical distress, and a few weeks after the prolapsion of the gut quite disappeared.

D. W. Y.

LOUISVILLE.

Correspondence.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN D. JACKSON.

At a regular meeting of the "Henderson Medical Club," held on the 15th day of December, 1875, the undersigned were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions relative to the death of John D. Jackson, M. D., of Danville, Ky. The committee thereupon submitted the following:

Whereas that inexorable leveler of human nature, death, has removed from this life our lamented collaborer in the vineyard of medical science, John Davis Jackson, M. D.; therefore be it

Resolved, That in his untimely death medical science has lost an earnest and devoted son; the brotherhood of medicine one whose eminent attainments, both as a scholar and physician, justly excite the respect and admiration of the profession, not only of Kentucky, but also of the whole country; and

whose purity of principles and honesty of heart endeared him to all who knew him.

Resolved, That our warmest sympathies be extended to his bereaved family and friends.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records of the club, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

WM. HANNA, M. D.,
BEN. LETCHER, M. D., } Com.
T. W. TAYLOR, M. D., }

Reviews.

A Comparison between the Results of the Treatment in One Hundred Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in Private and One Hundred Cases in Hospital Practice. By S. C. AYRES, M. D., Cincinnati. Reprint of *Lancet and Observer*, January, 1876.

This is a pamphlet of eight pages, in which the result of the treatment of one hundred cases of ophthalmia neonatorum in private practice is recorded at the time they were admitted in the hospital, and one hundred cases originating in and treated by the physicians of the hospital. In the former cases forty-two per cent of the eyes were more or less impaired, six per cent were hopelessly blind in both eyes, and five per cent in one eye from ulceration and sloughing of the cornea. Among the latter not a single eye was lost or its integrity impaired.

Every practicing physician is interested in this subject, as these cases are usually first seen by him when appropriate treatment will rarely fail to make a speedy cure. We give the treatment of ophthalmia neonatorum as applied in the Cincinnati Hospital:

"The eyes were cleansed every hour or half hour, or even oftener in cases where the discharge was very profuse, by gently separating the eyelids with the fingers and removing the accumulated pus with a soft rag or camel's-hair brush. A solution of two grains of alum and half an ounce of water, or of two grains of argent. nitrat. and one ounce of water, was dropped into the eye every hour or two. Every morning the eyelids were everted and brushed with a solution of five to twenty grains of argent. nitrat. and one ounce of distilled water, according to the

severity of the case, and the lids washed off with tepid water. Unless the swelling of the lids mechanically prevented it, the cornea was inspected *daily* in each case. As the case improved the interval between the instillations of alum and argent. nitrat. was increased, and finally discontinued entirely, but the argent. nitrat. was continued in a weaker or stronger solution until every trace of the disease had disappeared. The greatest stress was laid upon the thorough cleansing of the eye in the acute stages of the disease, and this was attended to not only by day but by night. To this part of the treatment do we owe the immunity of the cornea from ulceration. The pus is neutralized or coagulated by the action of the nitrat. and alum, and its corroding effects thus prevented.

"Another important point in hospital treatment is that the cases receive attention *immediately* the slightest swelling of the lids is noticed, and the severity of the disease is probably thus diminished.

"When the lids are very much swollen their eversion is an easy matter. Slight pressure with the tip of the index finger upon the lid near the edge of the orbit will generally suffice, or a probe or the handle of a camel's-hair brush may be used instead of the finger. As the lids get thinner their eversion is much more difficult. Then it is better to seize the ciliae between the index finger and thumb, or the loose skin near the margin of the lid, and draw it a little down and out from the ball, and at the same time make pressure upon the upper edge of the tarsus, which, if properly directed, easily everts it. The best plan is for the operator to lay the child across the nurse's lap and take its head between his knees, after first protecting them with a towel. In this way he can control the motion of the child's head most easily and make the applications most effectually.

"When a treatment so simple is followed by such excellent results, why is it that forty-two per cent of those cases in private practice, no more severe in the beginning than those in the hospital practice, are followed by such disastrous results? There is nothing in the treatment which any intelligent physician could not carry out successfully, and yet they will neglect and slight them. An oculist can not be on hand to treat every case, and there is no need of one. If purulent conjunctivitis was treated as promptly and carefully as other infantile diseases are, we would have fewer blind in our asylums and much less suffering and distress to the world.

"How few who visit our institutions for the blind ever think of the cause and prevention of the diseases which fill them! Sympathizing friends gaze upon the poor blind children as they move about, guided by their delicate sense of touch, and wonder why Providence should so afflict children who seem otherwise healthy and well developed. Generous

donations often show how deeply these unfortunates excite the sympathy of those who can afford to be liberal to the afflicted. It is well perhaps that few besides medical men can look behind the curtain to see the cause of all this trouble.

"This is a question which belongs not alone to the medical profession, but to the public, to the taxpayer, and to the legislator. Many of these children are thrown upon the charities of the state for protection and education, at a heavy expense to the people. Could this expense be avoided and the life-long affliction of the children prevented by judicious treatment, certainly the state and the people would both be better off."

C. S. F.

Cholera Epidemic of 1873 in the United States.

Washington Government Printing-office, 1875.

The volume before us is the result of a joint resolution of Congress directing that a medical officer of the army and the supervising surgeon of marine hospitals inquire into and report upon the causes of epidemic cholera in the United States during the year 1873. The work was performed by Dr. Ely McClellan, U. S. A., and Dr. Jno. M. Woodworth, the supervising surgeon of marine hospitals. The duty was performed independently, but Dr. Woodworth transferred to Dr. McClellan such information as to the epidemic in question as he was able to collect, and this material is found duly accredited to Dr. Woodworth in the narrative of the epidemic.

The report opens with a paper by Dr. Woodworth on the "Introduction of Epidemic Cholera through the agency of the Mercantile Marine, with suggestions of measures of prevention." In this paper, which occupies a space of twenty-eight pages, inclusive of an index, Dr. Woodworth presents a summary of what is known and accepted concerning the cause of malignant cholera. This, however, bears a striking resemblance to a series of propositions which were presented by Dr. McClellan in a paper, entitled "Cholera Hygiene," which appeared in the American Practitioner for February and March, 1874. Indeed the entire paper is devoid of original facts or observations, and is little more than a collection of the expressed views of others.

Following this introductory paper we find the title-page to the reports prepared under the direction of the surgeon-general of the army, and consists of "A," The History of the Cholera Epidemic of 1873, by Ely McClellan, M. D.; "B," History of the travels of Asiatic Cholera, by Jno. C. Peters, M. D., and Ely McClellan, M. D.; "C," Bibliography of Cholera, by Jno. S. Billings, M. D.

Part "A" opens with chapters upon the clinical history of the epidemic, the etiology of the epidemic, the prevention of cholera as illustrated by the epidemic. In these chapters we find many evidences of careless writing or want of precision, which are only excusable on the ground set forth by Dr. McClellan in the introductory pages, that the facts were collected and the report completed within the time specified by law, eight months.

Dr. J. C. Peters, the accomplished cholera topographical historian, furnishes a chapter on the origin and spread of the Asiatic cholera which reached the United States in 1873. The narrative of the cholera epidemic of 1873 in the United States follows, and occupies four hundred and six pages of the volume. This narrative consists of reports and statements of facts collected from two hundred and sixty-four infected localities with the assistance of seven hundred and thirty-two medical men. A complete record of seventy-three hundred and fifty-six cholera cases was collected. This record, we have been informed, is bound and placed for reference in the government medical library at Washington. To form a complete narrative of the epidemic it was necessary to reprint many local reports which had previously appeared in medical journals and the proceedings of societies, but it is evident even to a prejudiced observer that the mass of fresh matter far outweighs that which was reproduced.

In part "B" the travels of Asiatic cholera from the earliest periods have been abridged, and are presented in a condensed but interesting form. Those portions from the pen of Dr. Peters are worthy of the most careful

study. The amount of information in the possession of this gentleman is immense, and most worthily has he performed his task, producing the most exhaustive monograph ever published on the subject. Dr. McClellan has brought to light important information as to the history of the earlier epidemics in North America, especially that of 1833.

The index which follows is not only the least creditable portion of the work, but adds nothing to its usefulness.

Part "B," the Bibliography of Cholera, by Dr. John S. Billings, fully deserves the compliment paid it by Dr. McClellan in the introductory chapter. It is certainly "one of the most valuable contributions to the medical literature of the century."

We have devoted more than the usual space to this notice, not only on account of the importance of the work, which is indeed a monument of patience and sagacity and a great credit to American authorship, but because the various notices of the work which have appeared in a number of journals in this country and abroad have, no doubt unintentionally, done great injustice to its authors. Reviews they can not properly be called, unless the rule mentioned by Charles Lamb has been adopted, "not to read the book lest the judgment be biased." Certainly nine out of ten of these notices could have been as well written from the title-page alone. It is an injustice to the accomplished supervising surgeon of marine hospitals to credit him with work done by others. It is certainly due to Dr. McClellan, who performed more than seven eighths of the work, including the whole history of the American epidemic, that this fact should be known. Nor should Dr. Peters be denied the credit of his admirable essays upon the travels of the European epidemic. The rewards of authorship are poor enough at best; by all means then let what it brings in the way of reputation be justly distributed.

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L. P. V.

Selections.

QUININE BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION.—Mary Putnam Jacobi, M. D. (*Virginia Med. Monthly*), says: "The subcutaneous injection of such a substance as quinine, especially if in acid solution, can not be relied upon to produce instantaneously an effect proportioned to the entire dose, for the reason that absorption is by no means instantaneous. Its rapidity varies according to the degree of local irritation that will have been caused by the injection, and which, as I have assured myself, is sometimes sufficient to arrest absorption altogether. In this connection it is interesting to recall the advice given by Bernard, in his lectures already quoted, to inject quinine into the trachea. He quotes two cases where this was done in the algid state of violent pernicious fever. In the first case quinine administered by the mouth had been vomited. In the second, the patient—a child of twelve years—was almost unconscious; a ten-percent solution of muriate of quinine was thrown into the trachea by means of a hypodermic syringe without causing either cough or local irritation. In the first case the pulse became perceptible eighteen minutes after the injection, and in half an hour heat was restored and the patient out of danger. In the second case, in five minutes after the injection the pulse rose from 31 to 40 in twelve minutes, the respiration revived, and in an hour consciousness was fully restored; the patient sat up and asked for food. These observations were first published in a thesis in 1868, but Bernard's indorsement will give them more publicity. This distinguished physiologist declares that the method of administering medicines by the stomach, although far the most common, is the most uncertain and inefficacious of all modes of providing for absorption, and should be replaced by others whenever possible."

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN SCARLATINA.—Dr. J. P. Walker, of Mason City, Ill. (*Trans. Ill. State Med. Soc.* 1875), says of iodide of potassium that it appears to possess the most remarkable powers over the whole course and sequelæ of scarlatina, as well as over many other specific diseases. During 1873 and 1874 he with Drs. J. W. Spear and J. H. Walker saw over two hundred and fifty cases of all grades of the disease, of which not one died where this method of treatment was adopted at the outset, and very seldom did they have more than the first fully-developed case in the same locality. When called to a child one to five years old with the early signs of the disease Dr. W. at once bathes the whole body in a warm solution of carbonate of soda, and greases the child, head and feet, with old salt bacon grease. Also

take potas. iodid., one dr.; syr. scillæ, two oz.; tinct. verat. virid., three drops. M. S. Half tea-spoonful, more or less, according to age, every second hour until temperature is greatly abated—the doses to be gradually decreased. At the same time apply a piece of hot fat salt pork around the throat from ear to ear; to be taken off, heated, and re-applied every three or four hours. Also gargle as often as possible equal parts of a saturated solution of common salt, cider vinegar, and honey. This practice he has adopted for the past fifteen years without having had a single case of abscess about the throat or dropsy, when the treatment was early begun and properly continued. But in a few cases, so mild as to require the thermometer to detect fever, the treatment was discontinued in spite of his opposition, and general anasarca ensued; but this yielded readily to iodide of potassium and squills, with chalybeate and vegetable tonics. While the above treatment is being carried out Dr. W. orders every one in the family exposed to the disease to take, according to age, from three to twenty grains of iodide of potassium daily until the desquamation is completed in those cases where the rash has appeared. This he has found to act excellently as a prophylactic.—*Virginia Medical Monthly*.

OSTEO-CYSTOMA OF UPPER JAW.—W. Schibbye, M. D., of Quito, Ecuador (*Dental Cosmos*), reports: "A young lady of sanguine temperament had for the last six years suffered from a disease which had resisted all treatment. How it commenced she did not know, but every now and then a minute abscess would form in the gum above the left lateral incisor, discharge, and close again. I found her face disfigured by a uniform swelling extending from the right central incisor to the first left bicuspid; the gum was only slightly darker than elsewhere. I also found the opening not yet closed, wherefrom a few days previous a discharge had come. Examining with an excavator, I found at last a round hole in the bone, between the central and lateral incisor, the size of the handle of an excavator, which led to a cavity extending from the hard palate below to the turbinated bones above, from the boundaries of the nose to the alveoli of the teeth. No roots penetrated the cavity, and but little fluid was contained therein. The parietes were smooth and velvety to the feel, and no granulations to be felt. Her teeth were all in perfect order, not one decayed, and the gums healthy. To treat the cyst I broke up the parietes with a curved scoop through the opening in the bone, and syringed out with sulphuric acid and water. I then stuffed the cyst well with cotton and iodine, and afterward used iodine, alternating with chloride of zinc. The fleshy feel of repair was soon apparent, and the cavity filled up gradually and contracted. After a cure of three weeks the hole in the bone was

closed, the gum healed, and the case has remained cured."

MEDICAL MEN AS NURSES.—The Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal says: "Some of our British brethren are exercised at what they describe as 'the growing disposition of the richer classes to have their medical attendants to nurse them during acute but ordinary illnesses.' More prominent in America is the disposition of medical men to curry the favor of rich patients by toadying to them in their sickness. But the practice is by no means general, as far as our observation extends. On the contrary, we think American physicians exhibit a commendable degree of independence in this respect, and that they both feel and sustain the proper dignity of the profession in their relations with wealthy patients. There are, however, some notable exceptions, though it is not always the rich exclusively who are the subjects of extra-professional attention. We have known more than one obstetric practitioner who was in the habit of 'washing the baby,' administering injections, and so forth—offices which may be performed in emergencies, but not otherwise. We are no advocates of a proud, distant, kid-glove style of dealing with patients; but there is a happy medium to be observed, which, while it administers freely and familiarly in all matters of prescription and advice, leaves mechanical details in the hands of the nurse.

FRACTURE OF NECK OF FEMUR AND BOTH TROCHANTERS.—Dr. Welmart (*La Presse Méd. Belge*, No. 14) reports a case of fracture of the neck of the femur and both trochanters. It is of peculiar interest, owing to complete recovery, although it occurred in a patient aged seventy-two. The fracture, which was owing to a fall, healing in ten weeks, without the use of any bandage, with slight shortening and some impairment of rotation and mobility. The patient died about six months after from marasmus, and the post-mortem examination revealed the following: The trochanter minor detached under the tendon of the ileo-psoas, whose insertion appeared two thirds of an inch higher than normal. Trochanter major seems dislocated upward and outward and in bony union with the neck of the femur. The neck is firmly united at the seat of fracture, but about half as large as in the opposite limb. The impairment of motion therefore was due to the dislocation of the trochanters and the consequent change in the points of insertion of the muscles of the hip.

BORACIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF RINGWORM.—Surgeon-major Watson reports in the Indian Medical Gazette that he has lately employed boracic acid with very great success as an external application in the treatment of the dermatophyta or

vegetable parasitic diseases of the skin. He was induced to try this remedy from witnessing its employment as an antiseptic in the Edinburgh Infirmary wards. The diseases in which he has hitherto used boracic acid have been the different forms of tinea (*T. tonsurans* and *circinata*), and in that very troublesome form of the disease which affects the scrotum and inner side of the upper part of the thighs of many Europeans in India. Dr. Watson declares that the external application of a solution of boracic acid acts like a charm in such cases. An aqueous solution of boracic acid of a dram to the ounce, or as much as the water will take up at ordinary temperatures, is employed. The affected parts should be well bathed with the solution twice daily, some little friction being used, and it should not be wiped off, but allowed to dry on the part. The remedy is said to be so simple, cheap, and efficacious that it has only to be once used to be preferred to all other remedies of the same class.—*Lancet*.

INFLUENCE OF QUININE OVER WHITE CORPUSCLES.—The unquestionable and remarkable influence of quinine over white corpuscles, when brought directly into contact with them, has been utilized in the topical treatment of suppurations. Morlard, of St. Louis (*Pract.*, Nov., 1874), injected six grains of quinine, dissolved in two to three ounces of water, into the cavity of a suppurating pleura. The discharge of pus rapidly diminished, as it had not done under carbolic-acid treatment. An ulcer on the leg, of two years' standing, and associated with initial heart-disease, was treated with an ointment of quinine, ten grains to the ounce. In two to three days suppuration diminished, then healthy granulations appeared, and the ulcer was rapidly healed. The third experiment, equally successful, was on a mammary abscess treated by an injection of ten grains of quinine to one fluid ounce of water.—*Va. Med. Monthly*.

MUSCÆ VOLITANTES.—C. S. Fenner, M. D. (American Practitioner), says: "Muscae volitantes are found in all eyes, in youth as well as in after-life; but ordinarily, owing to a wise provision of nature (diffraction), they cast no shadows on the retina, because, owing to their small size and the large size of the pupil, the shadows they would otherwise produce are obliterated by the bending of the rays of light around the opaque bodies before reaching the retina. These bodies increase in size and numbers with advancing age, so as to be often visible in the ordinary exercise of vision. They frequently appear after vascular irritation, often induced by wearing glasses unsuited to the eyes, and cause painful forebodings of future blindness. It is only in high grades of near-sightedness (*posterior staphyloma*) that their presence should be the cause of alarm."

TEA POULTICE IN ERYSIPELAS.—Dr. B. G. McPhail, U. S. A., writes from Utah to the editor of the *Virginia Medical Monthly* that some time since an accidental circumstance led him to apply a tea poultice to a case of erysipelas of the hand and forearm, and with such happy results that he has since used it in several cases, also in cases of whitlow and osteitis. "In every case it gave decided satisfaction. It is grateful to the patient, allays pain, and reduces inflammation. Flaxseed meal made into a poultice with a strong decoction of black tea is a nice way to apply it, or the decoction may be applied warm on cloths. My opportunities for using it have been somewhat limited, and do not justify me in speaking too positively of its merits; but having been so much pleased with its action, I am induced to request a trial by the profession in the above affections and in puerperal peritonitis. Tannin has not given the same results in its pure state."

ABORTION ADVERTISEMENTS.—The *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal* says: "A Nevada editor has been indicted for circulating through the mails an advertisement of some one who offers the means of preventing conception and producing abortion. The indictment is either wrong or right. If wrong, he should be liberated, and all laws should be repealed which forbid abortion and child-murder. If right, nine-tenths of the editors on the Pacific coast should also be indicted for publishing the advertisements of quacks who are well known, almost to a man, to be abortionists, though the advertisements do not declare it in so many words."

THE UNCONTROLLABLE VOMITING OF PREGNANCY CURED BY HYOSCYAMIA.—Dr. Pitois, Professor of the Medical School at Rennes, reports two striking cases of this. After trying unsuccessfully all the usual means, it occurred to him to administer a teaspoonful every hour of a mixture containing five milligrams of hyoscyamia in one hundred and twenty-five grams of fluid. The next day the vomiting ceased, did not recur, and the patient went on favorably to the natural term of her pregnancy. A second case of the same kind was cured by the same remedy.—*L'Union Médicale*.

PUERPERAL MANIA.—Dr. Leibman, of Baltimore, attended a lady seized on the ninth day after her confinement with mania. The delusion assumed the character of extreme hatred to her very near friends. Ordered chloral hydrate, gr. x, repeated every two hours. After the exhibition of a few doses sleep was induced, and by the next morning she was restored to reason. Except slight nervous trouble, she entirely recovered at the end of three weeks.—*Virginia Medical Monthly*.

Miscellany.

—The Anstie Memorial Fund has reached £2,500 sterling. Of this sum about £1,000 has been subscribed by the general public, the remainder by the profession.

—The telegraph informs us that the cremation of the corpse of Count Rossi was conducted publicly in the cemetery of Milan on the 23d of the present month.

—The profession will be sorry to learn that Prof. Edward Clarke, of Boston, is confined to his house with a prolonged indisposition. It is to be sincerely hoped that he may soon be able to resume his useful duties.

—The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal (bi-monthly), edited by Prof. S. M. Bemiss, comes fully up to its mark in the January number. It is pleasant to see such a monument of literary ability and mechanical skill from the ancient metropolis of the South. We hope the old days of her prosperity are returning, and that the Journal continues to meet with the good fortune it so richly deserves.

—The *Virginia Medical Monthly* complains of politics interfering with medical appointments made by the Governor of Virginia. It says that "next to the interference of the state with the affairs of the church, we know of scarcely any thing that should be more emphatically denounced than the interference of the state with existing medical appointments on merely political grounds." This is very sound logic, and applies equally well to several other states and territories besides Virginia. Such interference, however, we imagine will continue so long as doctors are hungry and rings are in power.

—As soon as we were set at liberty we returned to our masters, and Doctor Sangrado received me very kindly, saying, "My poor Gil Blas, I did not hear of thy misfortune till this morning, and was just going to make strong solicitations in thy behalf. Thou must console thyself, my friend, for this accident, and attach thyself more than ever to physic." "That is my design," said I. And truly I

thought of nothing else. Far from wanting business, it happened, as my master had foretold, that distempers were very rife, the small-pox and putrid fever beginning to ravage the city and suburbs; so that all the physicians in Valladolid, and we in particular, had abundance of practice. Scarce a day passed in which we did not visit eight or ten patients each, from whence it may be easily conceived what a quantity of blood was spilt and water drank. But I do not know how it happened; all our sick died, either on account of our mal-practice or because their diseases were incurable. Certain it is, we very seldom had occasion to make three visits to one patient; at the second we were either told that he was just going to be buried or found him at the last gasp; and as I was but a young physician, who had not yet time to be inured to murder, I began to be very uneasy at the fatal events which might be laid to my charge. "Sir," said I one evening to Doctor Sangrado, "I take Heaven to witness that I follow your method with the utmost exactness, yet nevertheless every one of my patients leaves me in the lurch. It looks as if they took a pleasure in dying, merely to bring our practice into discredit. This very day I met two of them going to their long home." "Why truly, child," answered he, "I have reason to make pretty much the same observation; I have not often the satisfaction of curing those who fall into my hands; and if I was not so sure as I am of the principles on which I proceed, I should think my remedies were pernicious in almost all the cases that come under my care." "If you will take my advice, sir," said I, "we will change our method, and give chemical preparations to our patients through curiosity; the worst that can happen will only be that they produce the same effect that follows our bleedings and warm water." "I would willingly make that experiment," he replied, "provided it could have no bad consequence; but I have published a book in which I have extolled the use of frequent bleeding and aqueous draughts, and wouldst thou have me

go and decry my own work?" "Oh, you are certainly in the right," said I; "you must not give your enemies such a triumph over you; they would say you are at last disabused, and therefore ruin your reputation. Perish rather the nobility, clergy, and people! and let us continue in our old path. After all, our brother doctors, notwithstanding their aversion for bleeding, perform as few miracles as we do, and I believe their drugs are no better than our specifics." We went to work therefore afresh, and proceeded in such a manner that in less than six weeks we made more widows and orphans than the siege of Troy. By the number of burials one would have thought that the plague was in Valladolid, and every day some father came to our house to demand an account of his son whom we had ravished from him, or some uncle to upbraid us with his nephew's death. As for the sons and nephews whose fathers and uncles we had dispatched, they never appeared to complain; the husbands too were very civil, and never cavilled with us about the loss of their wives. But those afflicted people whose reproaches we were obliged to undergo were sometimes very brutal in their grief, and called us ignorant assassins. As they did not spare me in particular, I was afflicted by their epithets; but my master, who was used to such accidents, heard them without the least emotion. I might perhaps in time have been accustomed to reproach as well as he, if Heaven, doubtless to rid the sick people in Valladolid of one of their most severe scourges, had not produced an occasion that gave me a disgust to physic, which I practiced with so little success.—*Gil Blas*.

—Harper's Drawer recorded it way back in the sixties, but it is good enough to recall. At the outbreak of the war, when patriotism was somewhat more abundant than knowledge of anatomy, the question was put to a candidate for surgeon's position in a Cincinnati regiment, "What is scarpas triangle?" To which he replied, "What is the use of asking a man fool questions like that when his country's flag is trailing in the dust?"